

**DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL**3810 Rosin Court, Suite 150  
Sacramento, CA 95834**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Contact: Carl DeWing  
(916) 263-7949****February 28, 2003****PR 03-06****TWO DEATHS RESULTS IN LIQUOR LICENSE CANCELLATION**

**East Palo Alto – The owners of Las Maria’s Taqueria on 2150 University Avenue in East Palo Alto today canceled their On-Sale Beer and Wine Eating Place license rather than fight a Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) accusation to revoke the license.**

**ABC was prepared to file an accusation for being a “disorderly house” and causing serious law enforcement problems such as illegal drugs, fights, intoxicated patrons and repeated calls for police service at the location. In addition, two people were shot and killed in just over a year, most recently on January 11, 2003.**

**The District Administrator Andrew D. Gomez, Jr. of the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control's San Francisco District Office said, “By closing this premise, the health and safety of the citizens of East Palo Alto will improve significantly. The action taken by the licensees is a win/win solution for the licensees, the citizens of East Palo Alto, the East Palo Alto Police Department, and ABC.”**

**ABC was in the process of beginning an administrative action to revoke the license when the owners voluntarily agreed to cancel the license issued at the premise.**

**Gomez noted that it is unlikely ABC will issue a new license at that location for some time, if ever.**

**ABC is a Department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Secretary Maria Contreras-Sweet, a member of the Governor’s Cabinet.**